

Message Text

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TAGS: EEC, EP
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

1. IN FAREWELL STATEMENT TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 15 (AND IN BRUSSELS PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING DAY), EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI SUMMED UP WHAT HE CONSIDERED MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENTS DURING OUTGOING COMMISSION'S FOUR YEARS IN OFFICE. AMONG ACCOMPLISHMENTS HE MENTIONED: (A) QUICK ASSIMILIATION INTO COMMUNITY OF UK, IRELAND AND DENMARK; (B) CREATION OF EC REGIONAL FUND AIMED AT ENDING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DISPARITIES, AND EXPANSION OF SOCIAL FUND, WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO AMERIORATE SOCIAL/EMPLOYMENT INEQUITIES; AND (C) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMUNITY'S "GLOBAL" MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND CONCLUSION OF A NEW LOME AGREEMENT WITH ACP COUNTRIES.

2. ORTOLI SAID HIS AND COMMISSION'S MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT IS FAILURE OF MEMBER STATES DURING PAST THREE YEARS TO DEVELOP A "COHERENT, BALANCED" COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY TO REDUCE EC DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL, DESPITE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE COMMISSION IN THIS REGARD. ORTOLI
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 12483 172204Z

SAID EC COUNTRIES MUST CONVINCE THEMSELVES AND THE COMMUNITY'S MAJOR PARTNERS -- PARTICULARLY THE U.S. WHICH, IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, HE CALLED OVERLY DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN OIL AND LACKING A COHERENT ENERGY POLICY OF ITS OWN -- "THAT WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE" AND MUST ATTACK THE PROBLEM OF ENERGY ALTERNATIVES TO-

GETHER. ORTOLI CLEARLY BELIEVED THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY IS ONE OF THE KEYS TO EUROPE'S REDUCED DEPENDENCY: "... IF WE WISH TO CONTROL OUR FUTURE ENERGY SITUATION WE CANNOT SHIRK THE TASK OF SETTING UP COMMUNITY-WIDE INSTRUMENTS OF NUCLEAR POLICY. WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT NUCLEAR POWER CAN BE DEVELOPED UNDER CONDITIONS THAT ARE SAFE AND ACCEPTABLE TO OUR PEOPLE AND THAT THE SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF EUROPE ARE DEFENDED IN THE WORLD AT LARGE. THIS MEANS THAT THE COMMUNITY MUST BE IN A POSITION TO STATE, IN THIS AREA ALSO, WHAT ITS INTERESTS ARE AND WHAT CONSTRAINTS IT IS ABLE TO ACCEPT. TO NEGLECT EUROPE'S STRENGTH IN THIS FIELD WILL BE TO PUT OURSELVES AT THE MERCY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY OTHERS".

3. ORTOLI CONCLUDED BY CALLING FOR COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY AND JOINT ACTION IN PLANNING FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND THE ELIMINATION OF ECONOMIC DISPARITIES AMONG MEMBER STATES. HE URGED MEMBER STATES NOT TO TAKE REFUGE INNARROW NATIONALISTIC TRADE OR FINANCIAL ACTIONS AT THIS TIME OF CONTINUING ECONOMIC CRISIS, BUT INSTEAD TO SO CONVERT POLICIES THAT THE MOVE TOWARD ECONOMIC UNION WILL BE ENHANCED.HINTON

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